Message Text

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R 280928Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8349 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3521

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SY, US, LE, EG, XF

SUBJECT: ASAD'S REPORTED ATTACK ON US POLICY RE LEBANON

1. KUWAITI PRESS OF LAST FEW DAYS CARRIES RATHER PUZZLING REFERENCES TO AN INTERVIEW WHICH SYRIAN PRES. ASAD IS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN TO SOME EGYPTIAN NEWSMEN AND TO AL-MOSTAKBAL (ARABIC MAGAZINE IN PARIS). IN THE INTERVIEW, ASAD REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO A RECENT AD-MISSION BY EX-PRESIDENT NIXON THAT "THE AIM OF THE USG AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR WAS TO SPLIT THE ARAB RANKS AND KEEP THEM INCAPABLE OF MAKING WAR". ASAD REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT, DURING THE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY PERIOD IN THE MIDDLE EAST.HE REPEATEDLY ACCUSED SECRETARY KISSINGER OF ATTEMPTING TO DO JUST THIS, AND THAT WHEN THIS US LINE OF ACTION FAILED TO BREAK UP THE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN FRIENDSHIP THE USG "FABRICATED A MASSACRE" IN LEBANON, WHICH WAS INTENDED TO DRAW IN AND "DROWN" ALL ARAB COUNTRIES. ASAD IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE WAS NOT, THEREFORE, SURPRISED TO RECEIEVE "FIVE ULTIMATUMS" FROM THE USG (AND SOME FROM THE SOVIETS) DESIGNED TO STOP SYRIA FROM INTERVENING IN LEBANON.

2. COMMENT: NOT HAVING SEEN THIS INTERVIEW REFERRED TO IN CABLE TRAFFIC, WE HAVE MENTIONED IT AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST. SINCE IT WAS HEADLINED HERE, WE WOULD BE

INTERESTED IN EMBASSY DAMASCUS' COMMENTS, AND IN DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THE RECENT NIXON ADMISSION MENTIONED ABOVE.

MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: ASAD\'S REPORTED ATTACK ON US POLICY RE LEBANON

TAGS: SOPN, SY, US, LE, EG, XF, KU, (AL-ASSAD, HAFIZ)

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